

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /093 W

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R 031155Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4813

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, FR, US

SUBJECT: FRENCH AIDE-MEMOIRE ON U.S. PROTECTIONISM

REF: STATE 255718

1. SUMMARY. QUAI D'ORSAY DIRECTOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS SOFTPEDALLED FRENCH EMBASSY AIDE MEMOIRE (REFTEL), WHILE ASSERTING OUR MUTUAL NEED BE CONCERNED ABOUT RISING PROTECTIONISM IN MANY PARTS OF WORLD. HE RECOGNIZED THAT FILING OF COMPLAINTS UNDER TRADE ACT OF 1974 DOES NOT SIGNAL USG SHIFT TO PROTECTIONISM, BUT FEARED THAT CONTINUED GROWTH IN NUMBER SUCH COMPLAINTS
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WOULD LEND CREDENCE TO GENERAL BELIEF THAT PROTECTIONISM

ON INCREASE IN U.S. END SUMMARY.

2. IN COURSE OF CALL ON M. HENRI FROMENT-MEURICE, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS AT THE QUAI D'ORSAY, ECON MINISTER MENTIONED AIDE-MEMOIRE ON U.S. PROTECTIONISM WHICH FRENCH EMBASSY HAD DELIVERED TO DEPARTMENT.

3. WHILE NOT DISAVOWING THE AIDE-MEMOIRE, FROMENT-MEURICE APPEARED TO DISASSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM IT A BIT BY RATHER MILDLY DESCRIBING IT AS SOMETHING THE EMBASSY HAD DONE, AND ADDING THAT IT WAS EASY ENOUGH TO FIND EVIDENCE OF PROTECTIONISM IN SOMEONE ELSE'S TERRITORY (TO FIND BLACK TOADS IN YOUR NEIGHBOR'S GARDEN, IS HOW HE PUT IT). HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS AND WE ALL SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT INCREASING EVIDENCE OF PROTECTIONISM IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD.

4. ECON MINISTER THEN REHEARSED THE PROCEDURES PROVIDED UNDER THE TRADE ACT OF 1974, AS AMBASSADOR WALKER HAD DONE WITH FROMENT-MEURICE ON OCTOBER 1, DURING HIS FIRST CALL AS DEPUTY SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE. ECON MINISTER DESCRIBED TRADE ACT OF 1974 AS IN EFFECT INSURANCE AGAINST PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION, SINCE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS COULD POINT TO IT AS RELIEF FOR PERSONS WHO FELT THEMSELVES INJURED BY FOREIGN TRADE, AND WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE BE LOBBYING FOR MORE PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION. HE MENTIONED THAT WITH THE REJECTION OF THE U.S. STEEL COMPLAINT ON STEEL IMPORTS, WHICH THE FRENCH AIDE-MEMOIRE HAD MENTIONED, THE VALUE AND PERCENTAGE OF IMPORTS FROM FRANCE SUBJECT TO INVESTIGATIONS UNDER TRADE ACT HAVE BEEN REDUCED DRAMATICALLY. FROMENT-MEURICE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS ENCOURAGING, BUT CONFIRMED CONTINUING FRENCH CONCERN THAT THESE COMPLAINTS IF THEY CONTINUE TO MULTIPLY, LEND CREDENCE TO ASSERTIONS THAT PROTECTIONISM IS GROWING IN U. S.

5. ECON MINISTER ALSO USED OCCASION TO RAISE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE EC-IRANIAN PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT IN CONTEXT THIS DISCUSSION OF PROTECTIONISM (SEE PARIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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